AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture consisting essentially of:

a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid, and

c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylic acid ~~salicylate~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in an amount of from 10% to 50% by weight.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and is present in an amount of from 10% to 80% by weight.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compounds is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture and which composition consisting essentially of:

a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid, and

c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which process comprises either mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder ~~or dispersing/dissolving the above components, either sequentially or simultaneously, in a solvent, subsequently removing the said solvent so as to form a solid mixture and then pulverizing the said solid mixture to produce a homogeneous dry powder~~.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid and at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine, ~~and a xanthine which comprises a carboxylic acid~~ and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a dispersion as claimed in claim 20, ~~of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration,~~ which method comprises dispersing/dissolving a homogeneous dry powder mixture composition that ~~which composition~~ consists essentially of:

a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid, and

c) a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine,

~~and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium,~~ or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound that is ~~which comprises~~ a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid, and at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine, and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, or as prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a homogeneous dry powder mixture composition which composition consists essentially of:

a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,

b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α-hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β-hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α-ketocarboxylic acid, and

c) a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophilline, theophylline and theobromine,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration.

Claim 23. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 12, which is formed by mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder mixture.

Claim 24. (New) A composition in the form of a homogeneous dry powder mixture which is prepared according to the method of claim 19.

Claim 25. (New) A method for the preparation of a cream, gel or lotion for topical administration which comprises employing the homogeneous dry powder mixture composition of claim 12 in said cream, gel or lotion.

Claim 26. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and the mean particle size of the powder composition is between 0.1 mm to 5 mm in diameter.